

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 14, 16, and 17 are pending in the application; and that claims 14, 16, and 17 are rejected. In addition, the Examiner indicated that claims 16 and 17 contained allowable subject matter. By this response, claim 14 is amended; and claims 16 and 17 continue unamended. Claims 1-13 and 15 were canceled in previously filed Responses. In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application is indefinite or double-patented. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response thereto, the Applicants have amended claim 14 as indicated above. In view of the amendment to claim 14, the Applicants submit that claim 14 is not indefinite. As such, the Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 14.

DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

The Examiner rejected claim 14 as being an obviousness type double patenting rejection in view of claims 1 and 7 of Applicant's U.S. Patent No. 6,000,896. The Applicants have filed herewith a Terminal Disclaimer. As such, the Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection of claim 14.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicated that claims 16 and 17 contained allowable subject matter if rewritten to correct the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection (due to a dependency upon claim 14) and to include all of the limitations of claim 14 and any intervening claims. The Applicants have amended claim 14 as indicated above. However, the Applicants respectfully submits that claims 16 and 17 do not require amending. As such, the Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of claims 16 and 17..

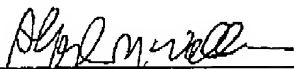
CONCLUSION

Thus, Applicants submit that none of the claims presently in the application are indefinite or double. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Alfred M. Walker, at (631) 361-8737 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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